

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
POPULATION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADHOC SUBCOMMITTEE

April 16, 1998
MAG Office, Suite 200, Ocotillo Room
302 North 1st Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Fred Osgood, Acting Chairman
Desmond McGeough, Avondale
Ricardo Toris, Glendale
Kyle McMaster, Chandler

Dan Hansing, Mesa
Mark Wheaton, Maricopa County
Michelle Chavis for Harry Higgins, Scottsdale
Neil Calfee for Atis Krigers, Tempe

*Those members not present

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Remy Autz, Phoenix
Donna Gadbois, Phoenix
Heidi Pahl, MAG

Harry Wolfe, MAG
Rita Walton, MAG
Don Worley, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Fred Osgood at 8:43 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 26, 1997

It was moved by Dan Hansing, seconded by Neil Calfee and unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of February 26, 1997.

3. Local Update of Census Address Program

Harry Wolfe provided a progress report on the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). He stated that LUCA addresses will arrive no earlier than June 1, 1998. All MAG member agencies will have 3 months to review addresses and send them back to the Census Bureau. It was stated that we need to be pro-active in preparation for LUCA.

Harry Wolfe indicated that the Census Bureau will not make any additions to its computer address file after January 1, 2000. He therefore indicated that all building permit completions should be sent to the Census Bureau before this time.

Mr. Wolfe stated that member agencies should start collecting permits issued in 1999 to predict what units will be there on April 1, 2000. He stated that based on MAG's building permit database, the lag period between issuance of permit and its completion is stable.

Mark Wheaton stated that Maricopa County is working with the Assessor's Office to compile building permits.

Fred Osgood asked if anyone has contacted the public utility companies to obtain address lists in preparation for Census 2000. Harry Wolfe responded that he contacted SRP, APS and Citizen Utilities. SRP said providing MAG with addresses would not be a problem and Citizen Utilities agreed to supply addresses to MAG. Mr. Wolfe said he was awaiting word from APS. He said that MAG wants to act as a clearinghouse for distributing addresses to cities.

Fred Osgood mentioned that examining utility bills will help determine whether a unit is occupied and should be counted in the Census.

Dan Hansing mentioned that we should obtain an address list from US West because some renters do not pay electric bills. The cost of electricity is included in their rent. He said that one way to track these renters is by checking the phone company address list. Dan Hansing said he can supply MAG with his US West contact.

It was noted that the post office provided MAG with a zip code coverage. Don Worley indicated that he had not had an opportunity to look at the coverage.

Dan Hansing asked about the penalty for sending to the Census Bureau addresses for permits completed in the fourth quarter of 1999. Rita Walton responded that the only risk is that the Census Bureau might not accept the permits. If the Census Bureau does not accept the permits, those units will be identified by census takers. All units identified by census takers will receive the short form.

Harry Wolfe responded that from looking at Attachment One, it appears that the elapsed time by jurisdiction, between the issuance of a permit and completion of construction is relatively stable. He said it could be used to predict whether residential units permitted in 1999 will be constructed by April 1, 2000. The average lag time for a single family housing unit is 140 days or 290 days for a multi-family housing unit.

Harry Wolfe mentioned that the Census Bureau sent MAG a TIGER file. The TIGER file is a text file that needs to be related to a GIS. There are 1990 blocks in the TIGER file because the 2000 collection blocks are not ready.

Remy Autz mentioned that ESRI built TIGER extraction features into ARC/INFO. Harry Wolfe indicated he is exploring the possibility of getting the State Land Department or other resources to extract the TIGER file for MAG. MAG wants to know what the TIGER file contains, the quality of information on TIGER, and if MAG member agencies can use the TIGER file.

Fred Osgood stated that the TIGER file is not an accurate street network file. It is a file that the Census Bureau uses to store data.

Kyle McMaster indicated that she doesn't know whether Chandler can draw all of their new streets on the maps in the time frame allotted by the Census Bureau. Kyle McMaster therefore, sent the Census Bureau an electronic file and asked if they could use it instead.

Harry Wolfe mentioned that there will be a second MAGical LUCA Training Session at the Scottsdale

Center for the Arts on Thursday, April 23, 1998 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Harry Wolfe reported that the Census Bureau will hold the LUCA Workshop after their training session on April 27, 1998. If materials for the Census Bureau's LUCA Workshop are ready by May 28th then MAG would like to integrate the Census Bureau's LUCA Workshop with the next MAG POPTAC meeting.

4. Census 2000 Participant Statistical Areas Program

Harry Wolfe provided an overview of the Participant Statistical Areas Program (SAP). Mr. Wolfe stated that the SAP maps will be sent to Neil Urban at Maricopa County by the end of April. MAG has estimated population by census tract and block group to identify areas for splitting and consolidating.

Mr. Wolfe stated that MAG would like to meet with the POPTAC ADHOC subcommittee to identify potential areas for recommending changes to census geography. Harry Wolfe indicated that an analysis of the block groups suggested that justification existed for arguing against consolidation. He said it was MAG's desire to have census data available at the lowest level of geography. He added that MAG is putting together a letter and supporting documentation to send to the Census Bureau to provide support for not consolidating block groups.

Fred Osgood asked where we are going to be in 2000 and beyond in terms of growing areas in the north. Harry Wolfe responded that the Census Bureau is willing to consider changes on splitting a tract based on the development that is going to be there, just as long as the splits are justified.

Fred Osgood stated that some of the City of Phoenix census tract boundaries are wrong and illogical. He asked if the City of Phoenix could recommend changes to census tract boundaries on the SAP maps. Harry Wolfe responded that changing census tract boundaries is not part of the SAP, but it is an important issue. Harry Wolfe stated that he would call the Census Bureau and ask, "What's the procedure for making technical corrections to census tracts?"

Mr. Wolfe stated that we need to keep TAZ boundaries in mind when making census tract splits because MAG takes census data and allocates it to the TAZ.

Fred Osgood suggested that Don Worley make an overlay of census tracts and TAZ boundaries.

Harry Wolfe suggested that on May 7, 1998 we hold an informal meeting to talk about how we are going to proceed with making changes to the SAP maps.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.